IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)	
John R. Bianchi et al.)	Examiner
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned)	
Filed: Herewith)	Group Art Unit
OPEN INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to examination.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this submission.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 3 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 13.

Any additional fees may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No.

23-3030, but not to include payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

Express Mail Label No.	EL 984271089 US	Date of Deposit	October 31, 2003		
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR Section 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 145%, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.					
Signature of person mailing paper of fee					
Signature of person mailing paper of fee					